



IN THE CLAIMS

amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A method for detecting the elements constituting a ~~microorganism~~ bacterial flora, at least some of the elements of which have an rpoBC operon in common, characterized in that:

- a) the genomic DNA of said flora or the mRNAs is (are) prepared,
- b) at least some of the noncoding intergenic sequences located in the operon conserved in at least some of the elements of the flora are amplified, and
- c) the various intergenic sequences amplified are identified in order to determine the elements of said flora.

Claim 2 (Original): The method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the identification of the amplified sequences is carried out on a DNA kit comprising sequences complementary to the sequences liable to be amplified from the known elements of said flora, and the demonstration of possible hybridizations making it possible to identify the elements present in the flora.

Claim 3 (Original): The method as claimed in either of claims 1 and 2, characterized in that the primers intended to amplify the intergenic sequence are located in the coding sequences of the flanking genes.

Claim 4 (Canceled):

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the intergenic sequences at least partially amplified are the IGR region between the *rpoB* and *rpoC* genes (or homologous genes).

Claims 6-16 (Canceled).